

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05

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TAGS: EAID, UNRWA, JO, US

SUBJECT: UNRWA BUDGET PROBLEMS

1. OCTOBER 1 PRESS RELEASE FROM PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICE OF UNRWA TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS IN AMMAN ANNOUNCED
FRB SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF ONE MILLION DEUTSCHE MARKS,
REDUCING DEFICIT TO AROUND \$20 MILLION THAT REQUIRED IF
"ESSENTIAL SERVICES" TO REFUGEES TO BE FULLY MAINTAINED
AT BUDGETED LEVEL OF \$128 MILLION. EMBOFF DISCUSSED
MATTER FURTHER WITH UNRWA/JORDAN DIRECTOR TANNER WHO
SAID IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT UNRWA PREPARED CONTINUE
ACTIVITIES THROUGH YEAR IF DEFICIT CAN BE REDUCED TO
AROUND \$8 MILLION. HE ADDED THAT EXCEPT FOR FEW MILLION
DOLLARS THAT MIGHT COME IN FROM UAE, UNRWA RELYING ON
ADDITIONAL \$12 MILLION FROM USA TO SEE IT THROUGH
1976. ASKED HOW LONG UNRWA PLANNED TO CONTINUE
OPERATIONS THIS YEAR WITH PRESENT DEFICIT, TANNER
SAID HE HAD NO INDICATION YET FROM SIR JOHN RENEE,
BUT HE THOUGHT UNTIL ABOUT SECOND OR THIRD WEEK IN
NOVEMBER. IN PREPARATION FOR THAT PROSPECT, TANNER
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THOUGHT, UNRWA WOULD WANT TO BEGIN AROUND 20 - 25

OCTOBER THE ROUGHLY THREE WEEK PROCESS OF NOTIFYING FIRST HOST GOVERNMENTS, THEN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND FINALLY STAFF OF IMPENDING TERMINATION OF UNRWA SERVICES AND SEPARATION OF STAFF IN LATE NOVEMBER. TANNER SHOWED EMBOFF OFFICIAL UNRWA COMMUNICATION WHICH WOULD HAVE TRIGGERED SUCH NOTIFICATIONS ON 8 SEPTEMBER FOR MID-OCTOBER UNRWA CUT OFF IF USA ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$6 MILLION HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED AT 9 SEPTEMBER ADCOM MEETING.

2. ON TRANSFER OF UNRWA'S VIENNA TEMPORARY HEAD-QUARTERS TO AMMAN, TANNER SAID SIR JOHN STILL HOPING FOR INDICATION THEY CAN RETURN TO BEIRUT, BUT IF WITHIN NEXT SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS NOTHING IS THOUGHT PREDICTABLE ON THAT POSSIBILITY, DECISION LIKELY TO BE TAKEN TO MOVE TO AMMAN WHERE OFFICE AND HOUSING AVAILABILITY HAS IMPROVED.

3. ON UNRWA'S OPERATIONS IN JORDAN, TANNER SAID HE EXPECTS NO MORE FLOUR THIS YEAR. THUS, ON 3 OCTOBER UNRWA/JORDAN SHIFTED FROM NORMAL TEN KILOGRAMS FLOUR AND HALF KILOGRAM RICE DISTRIBUTION TO SIX AND ONE HALF KG FLOUR AND TWO KG OF RICE. BY DECEMBER, WILL HAVE TO GO TO ZERO FLOUR AND FOUR KG OF RICE UNLESS GOJ GIVES UNRWA FLOUR - AN UNLIKELY PROSPECT IN TANNER'S VIEW BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR JORDAN IN DIRECTLY SUPPORTING UNRWA OPERATIONS. TANNER SAYS CUTBACK IN FLOUR AND INCREASE IN RICE, ALTHOUGH PROVIDING NEARLY SAME NUTRITIONAL VALUE, HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF SOMEWHAT STRONG RESENTMENT IN REFUGEE CAMPS, AND EMBASSY LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT PROBLEM HAS BEEN CALLED TO ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER. ACCORDING TO TANNER, CAMP SPOKESMEN HAVE ACCEPTED CUTBACKS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WILL BE MADE UP IN JANUARY-- AN UNDERSTANDING WHICH TANNER SAYS UNRWA HAS DONE NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE.
PICKERING

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